

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 01418 121241Z

42

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INFO AMCONSUL POZNAN

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: KRAKOW PZPR FIRST SECRETARY APOLOGIZES FOR SHORTAGES

THE FOLLOWING REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE KRAKOW CONSULATE

1. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN ONE WEEK, KRAKOW PZPR FIRST SECRETARY JOZEF KLASA PUBLICLY APOLOGIZED FOR SHORTAGES IN MEAT AND OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS AND FOR LAGS IN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION. SPEAKING BEFORE A MARCH 8 CELEBRATION MARKING WOMEN'S DAY WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER, KLASA NERVOUSLY ADMITTED TO HIS AUDIENCE OF 400 WOMEN THAT HE IS "AWARE OF MANY STILL EXISTING SHORTAGES" THAT ARE "PARTICULARLY SADDENING" IN THAT THEY ADVERSELY AFFECT WOMEN. "IT IS DISTURBING TO US," HE CONTINUED, "THAT THERE ARE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE FUNCTIONING OF TRADE AND SERVICE, AND SHORTAGES OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS, BUTTER, CHEESE, AND DAIRY PRODUCTS." ADMITTING ALSO TO A SHORTAGE OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS SUCH AS FURNITURE, CURTAINS, CLOTHES, AND SHOES, KLASA PROMISED TO "DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE LINES IN STORES AND TO INSURE BIGGER, MORE MODERN, AND BETTER-SUPPLIED STORES," AND HOPED THAT IN 1975 KRAKOW'S WOMEN COULD SPEND THEIR TIME "MORE PLEASANTLY AND MORE PRODUCTIVELY THAN STANDING IN LINES." CONCERNING HOUSING,

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 01418 121241Z

HE VOWED TO "SOLVE THIS PROBLEM MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN HERETO-

FORE, BEFORE THE SEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS." AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH, WHICH WAS DEVOID OF THE USUAL INVOCATIONS OF PAST SUCCESSES, HALF THE AUDIENCE REFRAINED FROM APPLAUDING.

2. THE SHORTAGES ALLUDED TO BY KLASA ARE SERIOUS, AND LONGER LINES THAN USUAL IN FRONT OF MEAT, GROCERY, AND FABRIC STORES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED BY CONSULATE PERSONNEL IN RECENT DAYS. KLASA'S FULSOME PRAISE OF THE WOMEN OF NOWA HUTA, KRAKOW'S INDUSTRIAL SUBURB, AND HIS PLEAS FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING LEND CREDENCE TO RUMORS OF GROWING DISENCHANTMENT IN THAT AREA.

3. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH CONSULATE OFFICERS MARCH 10, KRAKOW MAYOR JERZY PEKALA ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGES IN MEAT, BUTTER, AND MILK SUPPLIES. HE ATTRIBUTED THESE SHORTAGES, WHICH, HE SAID, HAD OCCURRED EARLIER THAN USUAL THIS YEAR, TO THE BAD WEATHER LAST YEAR. MILK, HE ADDED, WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A PROBLEM, BUT HE EXPECTED THAT THE MEAT AND BUTTER SHORTAGES WOULD BE UNDER CONTROL "IN A FEW WEEKS," THANKS PRINCIPALLY TO IMPORTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND GDR. IN A GRATUITOUS ASIDE, HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HOUSING PROBLEMS REMAINED GREAT AND A TOP PRIORITY.

4. DESPITE PEKALA'S STRESS ON WEATHER AS A CAUSATIVE FACTOR IN PRESENT SHORTAGES, PRESS REPORTS MARCH 11, IN THE WAKE OF A CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE SUBJECT THE PREVIOUS DAY, SUGGEST THAT "FUNCTIONAL" PROBLEMS SUCH AS POOR DISTRIBUTION, POOR USE OF RESERVES, AND WORKER INEFFICIENCY MAY BE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS.

DAVIES

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